



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

Winchester Hall / 12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701
CONTACT: Robin K. Santangelo
Public Information Officer
301-600-2590
rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov

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County dispels misinformation . . .

NO RENOVATIONS ARE PLANNED TO WINCHESTER HALL ASSOCIATED WITH CHARTER GOVERNMENT

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today dispelled rumors that the adoption of Charter government by voters in the recent November elections will result in a one million dollar renovation of Winchester Hall, the seat of county government.

Board President Blaine Young commented, “We would like to emphatically state that there are no future changes planned to Winchester Hall to accommodate the Charter’s new County Executive, County Council or any staff associated with these offices that will cost money – only a draft floor plan that uses current offices to accommodate the new structure of government. This board is not currently spending any taxpayer monies or allocating future budgetary expenses for any floor plan renovations or other changes to this historic building.

“The majority of the commissioners were very pleased with the approval of a change from our current five-member Board of County Commissioners to Charter in what we believe will be a more dynamic, efficient and responsive form of county government. But, considering the current economic challenges that continue to face our residents and businesses in this county, it would be ludicrous for our board to divert funds from the budget for such expenses as renovations. Our focus is the bottom line and working to make government more responsive to the citizens, not about finding more ways to spend money.

“A group of county employees, led by County Manager Lori Depies, will soon start to work on the tasks at hand to move to Charter government. That includes looking at budgetary planning and logistics, policies, administrative procedures, websites, legal documents and a whole slew of other areas in order to insure a smooth transition with the new officials – things that will not cost taxpayers. As for our board, we will continue to work hard to fulfill what we promised to do when we were elected to office and we will take care of as many matters as possible before we leave office so that the new officials begin with a clean slate.”

For additional information on Charter government, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/charter.

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